

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 17-20 are pending in this application, with Claim 1 being independent.

Claims 2-16 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended, and Claims 17-20 have been added. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0042884 to Wu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,965,682 to Davis.

Claims 2-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Davis, and further in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2001-202436 to Matsumoto. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons discussed above.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the presented invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of extracting first feature information indicating a feature of first image data, transmitting the extracted first feature information from a data processing apparatus to a server apparatus, registering the transmitted first feature information at the server apparatus, and detecting identification information indicating the registered first feature information at the data processing apparatus. Claim 1 also recites the features of extracting second feature information indicating a feature of second image data, transmitting the detected identification information and the extracted second feature information to the server apparatus, confirming at the server apparatus the transmitted second feature information based on the previously registered first feature information specified by the transmitted identification information, notifying the data

processing apparatus of a confirmation result, and printing information in accordance with the notified confirmation result.

Thus, according to the present invention recited in Claim 1, a server apparatus confirms second feature information based on previously registered first feature information that is specified by identification information transmitted to the server apparatus with the second feature information.

Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 1. In contrast to the present invention of Claim 1, Wu discloses a method of performing remote printing of a document by using a network. In the method of Wu, the document sent from a sender is received by a server, and the received document is forwarded to a recipient. At that time, the server controls the printing based on an instruction from the sender. More specifically, in Wu, the server restricts the number of times the document can be printed by the recipient and restricts the period during which the recipient is capable of printing the document, based on an instruction from the sender. However, Wu does not disclose at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 1 of specifying previously registered first feature information using identification information transmitted with second feature information, or confirming the second feature information based on the specified previously registered first feature information. In particular, although Wu discloses that data is checked using a hash value, this hash value is transmitted together with the data to be checked. In other words, the hash value is not previously registered first feature information specified by identification information detected at a data processing apparatus and transmitted with the second feature information.

Likewise, Davis and Matsumoto do not disclose and suggest at least the above features of the present invention recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

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